CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for enabling the exchange of reporting system information over a computer network comprising:

at least one web server operatively connected to one or more client systems over a HTTP-communication protocol network, wherein the web server and one or more client systems communicate reporting system requests and information without downloading any executable files from the web server to the client system;

at least one reporting server operatively connected to the at least one web server, wherein the web server and the reporting server communicate using an extensible markup language;

at least one data storage device operatively connected to the at least one reporting server; and

the at least one reporting server executing the reporting request from the client system using the at least one data storage device and transmitting the retrieved information to the at least one web server using the extensible markup language.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the retrieved information is transmitted to the client system using DHTML.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the web server does not have a direct connection to the database.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the web server does not perform any reporting system operations.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of web servers operating as a web server cluster.

6. The system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of reporting systems operating as a reporting system cluster.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the reporting system comprises an OLAP system.

8. A method for enabling the exchange of reporting system information over a computer network comprising the steps of:

receiving at one or more web servers using HTTP a user request for reporting system information from a user system;

converting the request to an extensible markup language request and transmitting that to a reporting server

the reporting server executing the reporting request from the client system using and transmitting the retrieved information to the at least one web server using the extensible markup language; and

converting the extensible markup language report to HTML or DHTML and transmitting it to the user system without downloading any executable files.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of converting the request to an extensible markup language request further comprises the steps of:

converting the request into a platform-independent, object oriented, multi-threaded and extendible programming language request using a platform-independent,

object oriented, multi-threaded and extendible programming language application program interface; and

converting the platform-independent, object oriented, multi-threaded and extendible programming language request into the extensible markup language request.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the web server does not perform any reporting system operations.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a clustered set of web servers to receive user requests.

12. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a clustered set of reporting systems to process reporting system report requests.

13. The method of claim 18 wherein the reporting system comprises an OLAP system.

14. A medium for causing a processor to enable the exchange of reporting system information over a computer network, the medium comprising code for causing a processor to perform the steps of:

receiving at one or more web servers using HTTP a user request for reporting system information from a user system;

converting the request to an extensible markup language request and transmitting that to a reporting server

the reporting server executing the reporting request from the client system using and transmitting the retrieved information to the at least one web server using the extensible markup language; and

converting the extensible markup language report to HTML or DHTML and transmitting it to the user system without downloading any executable files.

15. The medium of claim 14 wherein the web server does not perform any reporting system operations.

16. The medium of claim 14 wherein the medium further comprises code for causing a processor to operate a clustered set of web servers to receive user requests.

17. The medium of claim 14, wherein the code for causing a processor to perform the step of converting the request to an extensible markup language request further comprises code for causing the processor to perform the steps of:

converting the request into a platform-independent, object oriented, multi-threaded and extendible programming language request using a platform-independent, object oriented, multi-threaded and extendible programming language application program interface; and

converting the platform-independent, object oriented, multi-threaded and extendible programming language request into the extensible markup language request.

18. The medium of claim 14 wherein the medium further comprises code for causing a processor to operate a clustered set of reporting systems to process reporting system report requests.

19. The medium of claim 14 wherein the reporting system comprises an OLAP system.